

## CHAPTER

## 1

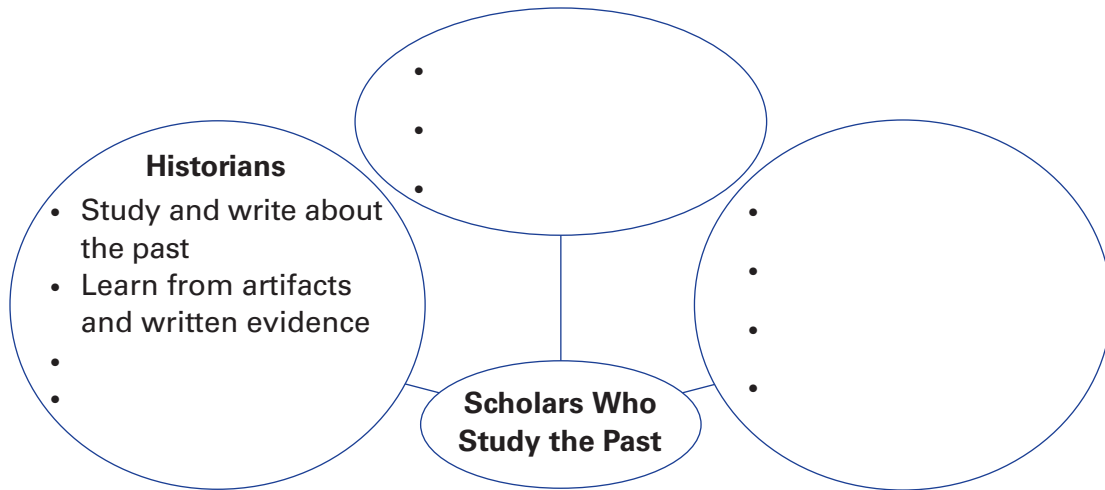
## SECTION 1

## Note Taking Study Guide

## UNDERSTANDING OUR PAST

**Focus Question:** What have scholars learned about the ancestors of humans, and how have they done so?

A. As you read “Studying the Historical Past” and “Investigating Prehistory,” complete the following graphic organizer identifying the types of scholars who study the past. Some items have been completed for you.



B. As you read “Discoveries in Africa and Beyond,” complete this summary table identifying different hominid groups and key details scholars have learned about each group. Some items have been completed for you.

Hominids	
Group	Summary
<i>Australopithecines</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Earliest hominids</li> <li>• Lived in Africa</li> <li>•</li> </ul>
<i>Homo habilis</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> <li>•</li> </ul>
<i>Homo erectus</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> <li>•</li> <li>•</li> <li>•</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Emerged between 100,000 and 250,000 years ago</li> <li>•</li> <li>•</li> <li>•</li> </ul>

**CHAPTER**  
**1**  
**SECTION 1****Section Summary****UNDERSTANDING OUR PAST****READING CHECK**

What does an archaeologist study?

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**VOCABULARY STRATEGY**

Find the word *technique* in the first underlined sentence. Look for the word *technology* in the second underlined sentence. Both words come from a Greek word that means “art” or “skill.” Use this word-origins clue to help you figure out what *technique* means.

**READING SKILL**

**Summarize** In your own words, summarize the important discoveries anthropologists Mary and Louis Leakey made at Olduvai Gorge.

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Writing was invented about 5,000 years ago. The period before that is known as **prehistory**. Several kinds of jobs involve studying human history—before and after writing was invented.

**Historians** learn about the past from **artifacts**. These include clothing, coins, artwork, and tombstones. They also study written materials, such as letters or tax records. Historians try to figure out how reliable this evidence is. They use it to explain why an event, such as a war, happened. What they learn about the past helps us understand events today.

**Anthropology** is the study of humans and their societies. Some anthropologists study human bones. They want to understand how humans have changed. Others study **cultures**, or people’s ways of life. **Archaeology** is part of anthropology. It is the study of past people and cultures through such items as tools, weapons, and pottery. Archaeologists use modern tools such as computers. A method, or technique, for measuring radioactivity helps them figure out the age of objects.

Before the 1950s, anthropologists knew little about early humans. Anthropologists **Mary** and **Louis Leakey** searched for clues in East Africa at **Olduvai Gorge**. There they found many ancient stone tools. The tools showed that whoever made them had the **technology**, or skills and tools, to survive. Then, in 1959, after more than 20 years of searching, Mary Leakey found the skull of an early hominid. In 1974, anthropologist **Donald Johanson** found many pieces of a hominid skeleton. Called “Lucy,” it was at least 3 million years old. Discoveries like these suggest that there were many different hominid groups alive in the past. These included *Homo habilis* and *Homo erectus*. Two groups of *Homo sapiens* arose. One of the groups, called Neanderthals, disappeared 50,000 to 30,000 years ago. The only hominids left on Earth then were early modern humans.

**Review Questions**

1. List three types of artifacts that historians study.

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2. What did Donald Johanson discover?

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## CHAPTER

## 1

## SECTION 2

**Note Taking Study Guide****TURNING POINT: THE NEOLITHIC REVOLUTION**

**Focus Question:** How was the introduction of agriculture a turning point in prehistory?

*As you read this section in your textbook, complete the following chart to summarize information about the eras of prehistory. Some items have been completed for you.*

<b>Eras of Prehistory</b>	
<b>Life Before Farming</b>	<b>Life After Farming</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Old Stone Age</li> <li>• Nomads; hunted and gathered food</li> <li>• Lived in bands of 20 to 30</li> <li>• _____</li> <li>• _____</li> <li>• _____</li> <li>• _____</li> <li>• _____</li> <li>• _____</li> <li>• _____</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• _____</li> <li>• _____</li> <li>• Grew own food, no longer nomads</li> <li>• Farmers settled the first permanent villages, including Çatalhöyük and Jericho.</li> <li>• _____</li> <li>• _____</li> <li>• _____</li> <li>• _____</li> <li>• _____</li> <li>• _____</li> </ul>

**CHAPTER**  
**1**  
**SECTION 2****Section Summary****TURNING POINT: THE NEOLITHIC REVOLUTION****READING CHECK**

What is another name for the New Stone Age?

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**VOCABULARY STRATEGY**

Find the word *transition* in the underlined sentence. What do you think it means? Think about what it means that people went from being nomads to being farmers. Circle one of the following items to show what you think *transition* means.

1. change
2. lack of change

**READING SKILL**

**Summarize** In your own words, summarize how the Neolithic Revolution changed the way people lived.

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Prehistory is divided into eras called the **Old Stone Age**, or **Paleolithic Period**, and the **New Stone Age**, or **Neolithic Period**. In both, people made and used stone tools. However, during the New Stone Age, people developed new skills or technologies that changed everyday life.

Early modern humans lived toward the end of the Old Stone Age. They were **nomads**, moving from place to place in small groups to hunt and gather food. These people made simple tools and weapons, built fires for cooking, and wore animal skins. They also developed spoken language. Some people began to bury their dead. Because of this, scholars think our ancestors believed in life after death. Cave paintings around the world show animals and humans. Early humans may have believed the world was full of spirits and forces living in animals, objects, or dreams. These beliefs are known as **animism**.

The New Stone Age began about 12,000 years ago when nomadic people learned to farm. They no longer needed to roam in search of food. As a result, early farmers settled the first villages. This transition from nomadic life to settled farming caused such dramatic changes that it is often called the **Neolithic Revolution**. These early farmers were the first humans to **domesticate** plants and animals.

Archaeologists have unearthed the remains of some of the first Neolithic villages. The site of **Çatalhöyük** is in Turkey, and **Jericho** exists today in the West Bank. In settled farming villages such as these, a council of male elders or warriors made the important decisions. Some settled people began to gain wealth and property. To farm successfully, they developed new technologies, such as calendars to know when to plant and harvest. They used animals to plow the fields. However, not all technologies were invented everywhere at the same time.

**Review Questions**

1. Why did early humans move from place to place?

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2. What was the Neolithic Revolution?

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**CHAPTER**
**1**
**SECTION 3**

# Note Taking Study Guide

## BEGINNINGS OF CIVILIZATION

**Focus Question:** How did the world's first civilizations arise and develop?

*As you read this section in your textbook, complete the following chart with details from the text to summarize the different phases of the development of civilization. Some items have been completed for you.*

<b>The Development of Civilization</b>	<b>Changes Over Time</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Changes in the physical environment have caused civilizations to change.</li> <li>_____</li> <li>_____</li> <li>_____</li> <li>_____</li> </ul>
	<b>Features of Civilizations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cities</li> <li>Organized governments</li> <li>_____</li> <li>_____</li> <li>_____</li> <li>_____</li> <li>_____</li> <li>_____</li> </ul>
	<b>Rise of Cities and Civilizations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Located near major rivers</li> <li>_____</li> <li>_____</li> <li>_____</li> <li>_____</li> <li>_____</li> <li>_____</li> </ul>

## CHAPTER

## 1

## SECTION 3

## Section Summary

## BEGINNINGS OF CIVILIZATION

## READING CHECK

What is the main feature of civilization?

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## VOCABULARY STRATEGY

Find the word *complex* in the underlined sentence. Notice the signal word *more* before *complex*. This suggests a change or progression. Think about why now someone had to be specially trained to read and write. In what way do you think writing changed? How do these clues help you understand the meaning of *complex*?

## READING SKILL

**Summarize** Explain what caused cultural diffusion, or the spread of ideas, customs, and technologies, in early civilizations.

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Early civilizations developed near major rivers. Rivers provided water, transportation, and food. The rich soil around rivers helped farmers grow food **surpluses**. As populations grew, villages grew into cities. However, not everyone lived in them. Away from cities, farmers raised crops in small villages or nomads tended livestock on the **steppes**.

The rise of cities is the main feature of **civilization**. Other features include organized governments, complicated religions, job specialization, social classes, arts and architecture, public works, and writing.

In the new cities, governments were led by chiefs or elders. They handled large projects such as food production, raising armies, and public works. Most people were **polytheistic** and so believed in many gods. Usually the gods represented natural forces, such as the sun. Unlike the **traditional economies** of Stone Age villages, people in cities often worked at non-farming jobs. People's jobs set their social rank. Priests and nobles were usually at the top. Wealthy merchants and **artisans** were next. Most people were peasants and held the lowest rank. Art and architecture developed, too. Artisans decorated palaces and temples with paintings and statues. Many civilizations also developed writing from **pictographs**. Later, as writing grew more complex, only specially trained people called **scribes** could read and write.

Over time, ancient civilizations changed. When groups came into contact, they shared ideas or goods. This **cultural diffusion** was caused by migration, trade, and war. People migrated, or moved, to escape natural disasters. Trade introduced people to new goods or better ways of making them. After a war, the winners forced their ways of life on the losers. Sometimes winners adopted the customs of the losers. Conquered territories expanded the size of cities. This led to the rise of the **city-state** and, later, to the rise of the first **empires**.

## Review Questions

1. The earliest civilizations developed near what geographic feature?

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2. What types of large projects did governments handle?

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